

NEWSPLASH

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Regulation Revision

Public Pool Regulation 61-51
to be revised

The Public Swimming Pool Regulation may have some changes made to it in the future. Some of the proposed changes are listed below:

Elevated structure - Change the current language to limit the 5 foot barrier requirement.

Depth markers - Change requirements for depth marker background from "white" to "light colored with contrasting numerals and letters."

Zero depth entry pools - R.61-51 (D)2(d) - Change language for the rope line and tile stripe to be more consistent with other areas of the regulation. Change from:

- (d) Zero-Depth Entry Pools. Zero-Depth entry pools are allowed in Type "A" and "B" pools only when a lifeline is placed at the 2-3 foot depth and a breakline tile stripe meeting the requirements of Section D Paragraph 2(c) is placed at the 4 foot depth.

To:

- (d) Zero-Depth Entry Pools. Zero-Depth entry pools are allowed in Type "A" and "B" pools only when a lifeline and a breakline tile stripe are placed at the 2-3 foot depth and meeting the requirements of Section D Paragraph 2(c).

Automatic Controller - R.61-51(C)23
- Change language to allow for more technical automatic controllers

to be used without disrupting the data recording/communications capabilities. Change from:

23. Automatic Controller. If an automatic controller is to be used, the device must be installed in accordance with the approved manufacturer's instructions. The device must also be directly wired to the recirculation pump and a flow switch such that when the recirculation flow stops, the chemical feed pumps are switched off.

To:

23. Automatic Controller. If an automatic controller is to be used, the device must be installed in accordance with the approved manufacturer's instructions. Either the device or the chemical feed pumps must also be directly wired to the recirculation pump and a flow switch such that when the recirculation flow stops, the chemical feed pumps are switched off.

Permit Extensions - Add language to R61-51(B) to specify length of the permit and the procedures required to request a permit extension.

Depth markers - Consider adding "IN" or "INCH" to the depth marker requirements to allow for more specific water depths.

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Swimming Pool Flow Meter Issues

All public swimming pools are required to be provided with proper flow meters. These flow meters must meet the minimum requirements as called for in the State's current Public Swimming Pool Regulation. The section of the regulation that governs flow meter requirements is section R.61-51(C)(18). One part of this section states, "... Rate of flow indicators must be accurate to + or - 5 percent and installed according to manufacturer's instructions." This requirement must be addressed when designing new pools or when performing applicable maintenance on existing pools (i.e., flow meter replacement). When submitting new construction projects or applicable change orders, please specifically list both the make and model of the selected flow meter(s). This information will be used during the construction review to verify that the above requirement, along with other requirements, is being provided. If there are any questions regarding this issue or any other permitting related issue, contact Coy Watts at (803) 898-4257, or e-mail to wattsem@dhec.sc.gov.

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Solar Panels - Add text to allow for alternate types of heaters. These are allowed in Florida and California, and allow for a more economical means of heating the pool.

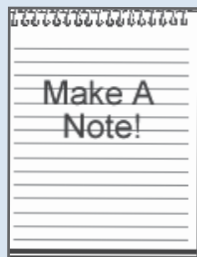
Safety Equipment - Consider setting a maximum distance from the edge of the pool to the safety equipment.

Please note that this is not a complete list of items that may be changed, and that all of the items listed here are open for discussion. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Shawn Clarke, Bureau of Water, 2600 Bull St, Columbia SC, 29201, or email them to clarkesm@dhec.sc.gov.

2006 Operating Stickers

Fees will remain the same for swimming pool operation this coming season (2006). The fees are \$125 for first pool/spa on the property and \$100 for each additional body of water on the same property. Flumes are \$125 each no matter how many are on the same property. The 2006 invoices will be mailed out January 16. As of March 15, a late fee of 10 percent will be assessed on the balance of all delinquent permit fees. On April 15, a late fee of 25 percent will be assessed on the balance of all delinquent fees. All delinquent fees must be paid before a permit and sticker will be issued.

To avoid any late charges please mail your payment no later than March 1. In an effort to insure that you receive your invoice in a timely manner please provide us with any changes including facility name, billing address, management company, or other changes that will affect receipt of your invoice on the address change forms that were sent out on November 14. If you have any questions concerning your invoice, please call Marquisha Williams at (803) 898-3540 or e-mail williamm@dhec.sc.gov.



Planning Ahead

Now Is The Time To Get Pool Work Done.

by Jim Ridge, Recreational Waters Compliance

Has your pool seen you lately? This might sound like a silly question, but as we enter the outdoor pool's dormant season, now is the time to really look at its physical condition and needs. Public swimming pools in South Carolina, even though not exposed to weather extremes like our northern neighbors, need constant care. The pool deck, plaster or marcite interior, and equipment room items all need basic maintenance in order to continue to function as designed. Below are some areas that you may want to look at and, if necessary, upgrade before the summer season rush begins.

Have you really looked hard at your pool's deck this summer? Slips and falls are by far the leading cause of poolside accidents. How level is your deck? Is it full of holes or cracks, and does it "pond" water during periods of heavy use? If you haven't renovated it in the past few seasons, you may want to consider a new deck surface that will eliminate trip hazards and drain water away from the pool.

How about that old fill spout sticking up next to where the diving board used to be? It is a significant trip point and should be moved inside the equipment room (direct fill method) or relocated next to a ladder.

Plaster pools are subject to wear, staining and cracking if not properly cared for. This should be an annual inspection item left for the pool professional. With the average pool coating costing thousands to repair, preventive maintenance is a sure bet to save your money.



The pool equipment room is probably the most neglected part of your whole operation. In this case, what you don't see can definitely cause you big problems. What's the condition of the electrical wiring and components? Proper grounding of your pump and other electrical equipment can save big bucks during unsettled spring and summer weather. Unpermitted changes of the pump, filter or chlorinator may actually have these components working against each other. Each must be properly sized in order to filter, recirculate, and disinfect your pool water. Facilities designed and built before 1982 were required to turn over (recirculate all the pools water) the water every eight hours. If your pool fits that description it's best to upgrade to a six-hour turnover rate as soon as possible.

Many items noted above can be diagnosed early by a pool service professional. A local business that specializes in commercial pools will probably have a great depth of knowledge about typical water conditions and common pool problems. Most will be happy to answer your questions without cost, and some pool professionals offer water analysis and interior inspection on site for a modest fee.

We've given you some places to look during your winter down time pool survey. Just keep in mind that before any replacement or upgrade work can begin, a DHEC "Change-Order-Form" must be submitted to the Department for review. There is no cost

for this review, and during the winter months these orders can usually be reviewed within a couple of days of receipt.

CPO Exam Information

According to the Environmental Certification Board, a new process for testing will begin in 2006. Although still in charge of issuing licenses for Certified Pool Operators (CPOs), beginning January 1, 2006, the Environmental Certification Board (ECB) will no longer administer the exams. They are currently finalizing a contract with the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) for computer-based testing at specific locations around the state. The computer-based testing will allow for exams to be given five days a week. It is hoped that this will allow for more flexibility in scheduling exams around the personal and work schedules of those wishing to test.



As soon as all of the details have been finalized, testing registration procedures will be relayed to current CPOs through a newsletter and the ECB's Web site at <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Environmental/>. At that time, they will furnish the details for setting up exam appointments.

CPO Course Information

Please note that there is no requirement to attend a CPO class prior to taking the CPO exam. However, several independent entities do offer courses for those who wish to attend a class prior to testing. Course contact information is listed below. Please be aware that registration in a CPO course DOES NOT register you to take the exam.

A Pool Group

1-803-233-7342
apoolgroup@earthlink.net

American Swimming Pool and Spa Association -

877-766-5724 (toll free)
<http://www.swimmingpooloperator.com>
info@swimmingpooloperator.com

Certified Pool Trainers

1-800-482-6436
sscheuer@mindspring.com

Contractors Seminars, Inc

1-866- 772-9596
<http://www.scexams.com>
contractorsseminars@sc.rr.com

Environmental Services

1-866-815-7819
<http://www.esdlt.com/cpotraining>

H2O Aquatic Training

(864) 226-2916
<http://www.H2OAquaticTraining.com>

Midlands Technical College

(803) 732-0432
<http://www.mtctraining.com>
jenkinsc@midlandstech.edu

Professional Aquatics Consultants

International (864) 848-7470
http://www.aquaticweb.com/cpo_courses.htm
maspaci@aquaticweb.com

The Pool Professor, Inc.

(704) 687-2560
<http://www.thepoolprofessor.com>

Sumter YMCA

(803) 773-1404 ext. 29
<http://www.ymcasumter.org>
mfrancisco@ymcasumter.org

Upper State Apartment Association

(864) 242-0200
jbaker@upperstate.org

Certified Pool Operator courses are also being offered at many area technical colleges. Please contact the technical college in your area for course availability.

What's a Recreational Water Illness (RWI)?

Learning about Recreational Water Illnesses will help decrease the chance of illness transmission at your pool. RWIs are caused by germs such as "Crypto" (KRIP-toe, short for Cryptosporidium), Giardia (gee-ARE-dee-uh), E. coli, and Shigella (Shi-GE-luh) and are spread by accidentally swallowing water that has been contaminated with fecal matter. People in the pool share the water with everyone else in the pool. If someone with diarrhea contaminates the water, swallowing the water can make people sick.

The great news is that germs causing RWIs are killed by the chlorine you have in your pool. However, chlorine doesn't work right away. It takes time to kill germs, and some germs like Crypto are resistant to chlorine

and can live in pools for days. That is why even the best maintained pools can spread illness. Therefore, along with maintaining proper chlorine levels, the promotion of healthy swimming behaviors is essential for any recreational water venue. Healthy swimming behaviors can protect patrons and their children from RWIs and will help stop germs from getting in the pool in the first place.

Here are two "healthy swimming" tips that can help keep swimming pools safe from RWIs:

- Take your kids on bathroom breaks or check diapers often. Waiting to hear "I have to go" may mean it's too late.

- Change diapers in a bathroom and not at poolside. Germs can spread to surfaces and objects in and around the pool and spread illness.

The above information is from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/>. More information on "healthy swimming" can be found by visiting the site.



EQC District Offices

The local Environmental Quality Control (EQC) Office performs compliance inspections and can provide technical assistance. Check the numbers below for the office in your area.

Aiken Office..... (803) 641-7670
Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun

Anderson Office..... (864) 260-5569
Anderson, Oconee

Beaufort Office..... (843) 846-1030
Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton

Charleston Office..... (843) 740-1590
Charleston, Berkely, Dorchester

Columbia Office..... (803) 896-0620
Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield

Florence Office..... (803) 661-4825
Florence, Dillon, Marion, Mrlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield

Greenville Office..... (864) 241-1090
Greenville, Pickens

Greenwood Office..... (803) 641-7670
Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick

Lancaster Office..... (803) 285-7461
Lancaster, Chester, York

Myrtle Beach Office..... (843) 238-4378
Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg

Spartanburg Office..... (864) 596-3800
Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union

Sumter Office..... (803) 596-3800
Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon

DHEC Central Office Contact Numbers

Main Telephone Number (803) 898-4300

Main Fax Number (803) 898-4215

For questions concerning construction permits and change orders, call Shawn Clarke (803) 898-3544

For questions concerning program policies and compliance issues, call Jim Ridge (803) 898-4015

For questions concerning operating permit fees and address changes, call Marquisha Williams (803) 898-3540

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<http://www.scdhec.gov/water/html/recreation.html>

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